

# Beaver Dam

STATE PARK



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Natural Resources**

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### The Park

Located in Macoupin County 7 miles southwest of Carlinville and situated in an oak/hickory woodland, Beaver Dam State Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities on its 750 acres. Fishing, picnicking, hiking and tent and trailer camping are among the most popular activities. Although the beaver is virtually gone from this area, the park is named for a beaver dam that created its lake.

### Park History

The lake became a well-known fishing spot when in the early 1890s, 18 men from the Carlinville area formed the Beaver Dam Lake Club. They spent \$2,500 to build a dam at each end of the lake to double the water depth.

For a number of years, the club held summer and fall picnics at the lake. Their families enjoyed fishing and boating throughout the season. The area then became the property of the family of Mrs. Sarah Rhodes, who for some time operated a small hotel which stood just inside the park entrance. One mile northeast of the hotel existed a cluster of houses and a railroad stop known as Macoupin Station. Trains stopping here were met by a large horse-drawn coach which took guests to the hotel. With the advent of the

automobile, however, this transit business disappeared and the hotel was closed.

The initial land acquisition for Beaver Dam State Park was 425 acres in 1947. Additional land purchases have increased the park to a total of 751 acres.

### Wildlife

The combination of upland and bottomland woods, farmland, open fields, a lake and a marsh combine to provide habitat for many kinds of animals. A quiet walker may discover deer, fox, raccoons, grey squirrels,

wild turkeys, hawks, owls and woodpeckers. The park is also a home for snakes, frogs and insects. White squirrels, which are not albinos, but rather a white-color phase of the grey squirrel, are periodically seen within the park boundaries.

Some of the many types of songbirds that enrich the natural setting are bluebirds, orioles, finches, cardinals, titmice, nuthatches, chickadees, peewees and cuckoos. Waterfowl and shorebirds are found seasonally in the park. Pileated woodpeckers are also commonly seen.

### Facilities

**Camping:** The trailer camping area has electricity at each pad and a sanitary dump station. A shower building with flush toilets is located in the center of the trailer camping area. Water is available in the area, but there are not water hookups at each site. Tent camping is in a separate area with nearby rest rooms and water. Reservations cannot be made for trailer or tent camping.

In order to stay in the rent-a-cabin, a reservation is required. The park facilities are open year round; however, please call ahead in the winter months.

A designated area for youth-group camping, such as Boy or Girl Scouts, features restrooms, water, fire pads and picnic tables. When youth groups plan to use the area, the site superintendent's office should be notified





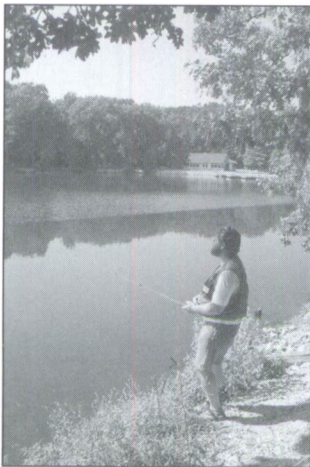


in advance by calling (217) 854-8020. All camping is situated in wooded areas where large oak and hickory trees provide shade throughout the day.

**Picnicking:** There is one large section of the park available for picnicking. Picnic tables and barbeque grills are provided, or picnickers may bring their own grills. Four pavilions are located in the picnic area and can be reserved.

**Concession:** The concession stand on the lake is open from April through October. Food, picnic supplies, live bait, tackle, boat rentals and fishing licenses are available.

**Fishing:** The park contains a 59-acre lake, which has a maximum depth of 10



feet and 1.7 miles of shoreline. Over the years, the lake has been stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, trout, sunfish and channel catfish. A free boat launch and docks are available for public use. No gasoline engines are allowed; only electric trolling motors. Check the information display for daily catch and size limits.

#### **Hiking Trails:**

Approximately eight miles of hiking trails are found in the park. These trails encircle the lake, lead past the marsh, and extend through various wooded areas in the park. See the map on back of this brochure.



**Playground Equipment:** Playground equipment is located in the picnic area.

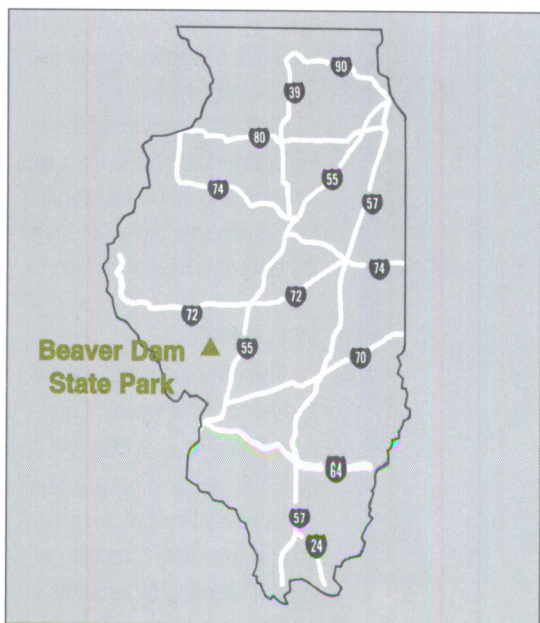
**Archery Range:** An archery range is located across from the concession and may be used free of charge. Archers must bring their own bows and arrows. Broadhead points are not allowed. All archers under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

**Winter Activities:** When conditions are suitable, ice fishing and ice skating are permitted. Adequate snow cover permits cross-country skiing and sledding.

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## Beaver Dam State Park

14548 Beaver Dam Lane

Plainview, IL 62676, (217) 854-8020

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, call (217) 782-6302 or visit our website at [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us).
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other nonmerit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.

This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 for assistance.

